United Nations A/ES-10/502 S/2010/505

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2010

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-fifth year**

## Identical letters dated 1 October 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As world leaders converged on the United Nations for the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a central message was made abundantly clear by the overwhelming majority of leaders: international law must be respected and honoured by all, for this is the main pillar of our international system aimed at ensuring peaceful, secure, friendly and equitable relations among nations and ensuring the protection and promotion of the human rights of all peoples.

This central message was of direct relevance to the question of Palestine and the references to the need for achieving a just and lasting solution and the ongoing efforts by the international community to promote the peace talks and to prevent their collapse under the weight of the intransigence and impunity of Israel, the occupying Power. The international consensus in this regard is strong. Now more than ever, Member States are united in their call upon Israel to respect its legal obligations as an occupying Power and to cease forthwith its violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the many relevant United Nations resolutions. There is unanimity in the conviction that such respect for the law is imperative for promoting an environment conducive to the pursuit of peace, and indeed for salvaging the prospects for achievement of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. In particular, the international community is firmly united in its demand that Israel cease its illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Regrettably, Israel has responded to these calls from all corners of the globe with defiance, intransigence, indifference and even blatantly expansionist and racist proposals. As the so-called "10-month moratorium" on settlement construction in the Occupied West Bank expired, Israeli officials, including senior members of government, have proceeded to make several provocative statements, including in the context of official visits to illegal settlements, in a reflection of their determination to continuing colonizing the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including



Please recycle

East Jerusalem, regardless of the fact that such actions constitute clear breaches of international humanitarian law and regardless of the gravely detrimental impact on the newly resumed peace process and the concerted and noble efforts being exerted in this regard by all members of the international community and led by the efforts of the United States of America.

Among the many provocative actions and statements made in recent days, Israeli Vice-Prime Minister Silvan Shalom inaugurated an illegal settler-only road in Al-Khalil (Hebron) on 27 September. The road, estimated to cost around $5 million, will be funded by the Ministry of Transportation. Mr. Shalom also declared to the media that he considered the settlement moratorium to be an unwarranted mistake and vowed that it would not be repeated. Such actions by senior members of the Israeli government reflect the determination of the occupying Power to once again recklessly defy the rule of law and to choose intransigence over cooperation. This cannot be understood other than as constituting a clear Israeli decision to remain on the path of occupation, settlements and colonization rather than the path of peace, based on United Nations resolutions, the land for peace principle at the core of the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, the basis for peace repeatedly reaffirmed and consensually supported by the international community.

At the same time, in the past few days, Israeli settlers have committed acts of violence and provocation, including razing fields, setting up caravans and undertaking illegal construction activities in settlements across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. Extremist settlers have also stepped up their attacks against unarmed Palestinian civilians living in villages close to illegal settlements. Most notably, as Palestinians begin the olive harvest season, Israeli settlers have once again begun burning and cutting olive orchards, in addition to stealing the cherished harvest that provides the sustenance and livelihood for so many Palestinian families. Moreover, it is well known that such acts of violence, terror and intimidation by extremist and aggressive settlers are being carried out under the watchful eye and protection of the Israeli occupying forces.

In addition, we must express our alarm and outrage at the offensive and provocative remarks made on Tuesday, 28 September, by the Israeli Foreign Minister in the General Assembly. In this regard, it must be recalled that this provocation came on the same date as 10 years earlier when former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon committed the grave provocation of descending with occupying forces upon Al-Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) in Occupied East Jerusalem, igniting the second intifada. This Foreign Minister's blatant distortions before the Assembly of the internationally accepted and known facts regarding Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories since 1967, as well as his racist advocacy for a population transfer as part of a final settlement, are outrageous and must be unequivocally rejected. Furthermore, it should be cause for alarm for all those who believe in the urgency of reaching a peaceful and comprehensive settlement on the basis of the two-State solution and who are exerting enormous efforts towards that end that the Foreign Minister stated, on behalf of his government, that Israel seeks an interim agreement that would be implemented over a few decades.

Such statements totally contradict the international commitment and prevailing international vision for a final peace settlement, as enshrined in relevant Security Council resolutions, and the consensus position that negotiations for such a peace settlement can and should be finalized within one year's time, allowing the Palestinian people to finally exercise their inalienable right to self-determination by achieving the independence of their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the land occupied since 1967. We highly regret that the Minister was permitted to spew such incitement and hatred from the General Assembly's rostrum and to make a mockery of the international community and its efforts to achieve just and lasting peace and security in the Middle East. Indeed, such provocative and irresponsible statements should be met with the appropriate stern reaction from all global partners for peace, individually and collectively.

The Israeli decision to continue on the path of impunity, acting as a State above the law, and indeed mocking the law and those who adhere to it and call for its respect, must be cause for great concern of the international community. Such a challenge to the rule of law and the collective will of the international community must not be met with indifference, for the potential ramifications are very serious and will gravely impact the region and beyond. The international community must remain firm in its demand that Israel, the occupying Power, abide by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law and the relevant resolutions, and that it conscientiously uphold its commitment to and its responsibilities for making peace a reality.

Finally, in this regard, we wish to express our appreciation to Your Excellency for reiterating the global demand that Israel, the occupying Power, respect its international obligations and freeze all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. We reiterate that all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and as such must neither be permitted to prejudge the outcome of final status negotiations nor enjoy any legitimacy from the international community. It is clear that the construction and expansion of this most egregious violation of international law constitutes a grave danger not just to the collective peace effort but also in reality to the very viability of the two-State solution. We thus trust that the international community will maintain its resolve to confront this threat in the appropriate manner and in so doing protect the credibility and respect of our international system and the prospects for attaining peace and security in the Middle East.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 374 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 September 2010 (A/ES-10/501-S/2010/489), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/503 S/2010/515

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2010

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-fifth year**

# Identical letters dated 8 October 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write today to state our strong condemnation of the concerted actions Israel, the occupying Power, is taking to escalate tensions on the ground through a systematic campaign of murder, land grab and aggression, as well as the heinous crimes committed by illegal Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilian population and their properties, including holy places. The actions by both Israel, the occupying Power, and its illegal settlers, who are funded, protected and encouraged by the occupying Power, threaten to incite further anger and violence and endanger the prospects for peace talks to resume in order to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Today, in its most recent crime against the Palestinian people, Israeli occupying forces carried out a highly aggressive and bloody raid against an entire neighbourhood in the West Bank city of Al-Khalil (Hebron). In this regard, Israeli occupying forces laid siege to the neighbourhood of Jabal Johar and bombarded a home there while firing indiscriminately in the residential neighbourhood. The assault left two Palestinians dead and several others injured. Israeli occupying forces also detained six residents while bulldozers demolished and destroyed several homes, shops and livestock dens in the neighbourhood. Overall, this assault caused bloodshed, chaos and widespread damage, and stoked anger and fear among the civilian population, including children and women.

The Israeli Prime Minister and his Defense Minister praised the occupying forces for this deadly assault, calling it a "measure of justice". Not only do we find these statements abhorrently racist but they are also highly inflammatory. Instead of doing its utmost to maintain calm and harbour trust, Israel, the occupying Power, is ordering the assassination of Palestinians and the destruction of their property. These illegal acts are criminal and any attempt to justify them serves only to highlight the occupying Power's determination to walk the path of violence and prejudice rather than the one of peace and cooperation to which Palestinians, along with the international community, are committed.

10-57567 (E) 131010

Please recycle

We maintain that this unwarranted escalation is twofold; a combination of official military action and terrorist acts by violent settlers, who have always acted with impunity. In addition to the burning of the mosque and the Holy Koran in the town of Beit Fajjar in the occupied West Bank by Israeli settlers on Monday, 4 October 2010, the world watched in horror today as media footage showed an Israeli settler car charging forward and hitting two young Palestinian boys. The driver, David Be'ri, is a known right-wing Israeli settler leader who heads a group that works to rid occupied East Jerusalem of its Palestinian residents in order to illegally place extremist settlers there instead. In addition to this criminal incident, Palestinian medical sources in Hebron confirmed that two civilians were also injured this afternoon as a result of gunfire by an illegal settler. Unfortunately, Israeli settlers carry out crimes against Palestinian civilians on a regular basis with impunity, as they have constantly been protected and sheltered from legal accountability by Israel, the occupying Power.

Israel, the occupying Power, has also unleashed its military escalation on the besieged Gaza Strip. Over the past 48 hours, Israeli occupying forces have conducted two air strikes and repeatedly fired on workers and farmers in Gaza, injuring several civilians. This latest incident of Israeli aggression only causes further suffering in an already devastated society, living a humanitarian disaster because of the punitive, inhumane siege Israel, the occupying Power, has been imposing on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza since 2007.

These events are neither isolated nor a product of chance. Instead, they are the conscious choice the occupying Power has made to respond to the overwhelming will of the international community, which is working tirelessly to save a credible chance for peace from the jeopardy its illegal actions have caused. They demonstrate the same impunity as Israel's refusal to end settlement activity in the West Bank, which time and time again has destroyed the credibility of efforts to launch peace talks. Hence, we call on the international community, embodied in the United Nations and your good office, to act swiftly and decisively to put an end to this campaign of terror. We further warn that such bloodshed and unchecked terrorism by settler militias poses a grave and real danger to stability in the region and undermines the credibility of the peace efforts that are under way by the international community.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 375 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 October 2010 (A/ES-10/502-S/2010/505) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/504 S/2010/535

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 October 2010

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-fifth year**

## Identical letters dated 15 October 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you today to express our strong condemnation of the latest unilateral, illegal Israeli measures in Occupied East Jerusalem. On Thursday, 14 October 2010, Israel, the occupying Power, approved the construction of 240 more new settlement units in the illegal settlements of "Pisgat Ze'ev" and "Ramot", in Occupied East Jerusalem. The approval for the construction of these units in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is yet further proof of the ongoing and intensifying Israeli policy of land grab and colonization, which has been most aggressive in Occupied East Jerusalem.

This Israeli decision shows, once again, that the current Government of Israel is set to undermine any chances of salvaging the peace talks and what they intended to achieve. It is also in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other relevant provisions of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Moreover, it is absolutely contrary to the well-defined and internationally supported objective of a peace process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, namely the achievement of independence of the State of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

I regret to inform you also that Israeli settler terror, violence, harassment and intimidation against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to intensify, particularly during the olive harvest season. Today, the armed settlers of the outpost "Gevat Gilad" set fire to the village of Fara'ta east of Qalqilya, causing damage estimated at tens of thousands of dollars. These criminal armed settlers also prevented Palestinian firemen from reaching the affected area, leading to more damage in the lands belonging to Palestinian citizens. Such lawlessness and impunity have clearly been fostered and fuelled by the military, financial and physical reinforcements and

10-59143 (E) 211010

Please recycle

incentives provided to the settlers by the Government of Israel, including its absolute failure to hold the settlers accountable for their crimes. Extremist settlers have been no doubt further emboldened by repeated declarations of support and incitement from members of the current right-wing Government of Israel.

We once again alert the international community to the fact that illegal Israeli settlement expansion in Occupied East Jerusalem is accelerating in an unprecedented manner and that it continues in conjunction with the aggressive Israeli campaign of demolishing Palestinian homes and evicting and displacing hundreds of indigenous Palestinian families from the city. Such Israeli policies and measures clearly aim at altering the demographic composition, status and nature of East Jerusalem, in an attempt to create a new reality on the ground, in effect pre-empting any final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

These illegal Israeli actions undermine the efforts to resume and accelerate the peace process and represent an affront to the international community's unanimous call to halt such actions to allow for the peace efforts to succeed. In this regard, the Palestinian people and their leadership have expressed deep appreciation for the unanimous assertion of principled positions and strong, clear statements recently made by leaders from around the world, regarding the latest such illegal, unilateral Israeli actions. However, what is needed now is for the international community, including the Security Council, to take immediate, practical and decisive action to bring Israel into compliance with international law, including its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Quartet Roadmap because the alternative gravely threatens not only Palestinian national aspirations for freedom and independence in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, but also gravely threatens the stability and security of the entire region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 376 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 October 2010 (A/ES-10/503-S/2010/515) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/505 S/2010/578

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 November 2010

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-fifth year**

## Identical letters dated 10 November 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In yet another display of its blatant contempt for international law and for the clear position of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its unlawful and destructive settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem.

We write to you today to place on record our total condemnation and rejection of the plans announced yesterday by the Israeli Government for the construction of another 1,300 settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem. It cannot be ignored that this provocative announcement has been made at a critical period during which all efforts are being exerted internationally and regionally, including by the United States of America, the Quartet and the League of Arab States, to overcome the deadlock, encourage confidence and trust between the two sides and resume the peace process. The timing and audacity of such declared intentions by the occupying Power affirm the fact that Israel remains insistent on pursuit of this illegitimate campaign in defiance of the repeated calls and appeals from around the world to cease all such illegal activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Moreover, it is a reaffirmation of the rejection by Israel of its legal obligations under international law and United Nations resolutions and under the Quartet Roadmap, as well as its rejection of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Reflecting Israel's scorn for the international community and the rules and principles governing international relations, the Prime Minister of Israel has persisted in ridiculing and rejecting the unanimous international position in this regard by repeatedly making provocative statements in addition to such deplorable announcements and the ongoing incitement on the ground by other Israeli officials and the illegal settlers. Yesterday, the Prime Minister flagrantly declared: "Jerusalem is not a settlement. It is the capital of the State of Israel", and vowed to continue illegal settlement construction there. Such statements, which only seek to distort the



Please recycle

reality of this illegal situation and to promote the perverse Israeli narrative in this regard, should be firmly condemned and rejected by the international community at all levels.

Israel's settlement construction and all other ongoing colonization activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, which strictly prohibits such activities. Moreover, at this crucial moment, it must be recalled that the Security Council of the United Nations has taken a very clear and strong position in rejection of Israel's illegal settlement in numerous resolutions, including specific resolutions regarding all such measures in Occupied East Jerusalem. The Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force; reaffirmed the illegality and invalidity of all measures causing change to the legal status, geographic nature and demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; reaffirmed that East Jerusalem remains a part of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, and rejected Israel's imposition of the so-called "Basic Law" on the City, deeming this provocative action illegal, null and void. Moreover, the Security Council, along with the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice, has unequivocally called for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem.

The announcement of such plans by the Israeli Government, and its continued construction and expansion of settlements and of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are not only indicative of Israel's absolute disdain for the norms and laws that civilized nations live by and honour, but also exposes the occupying Power's intentions to sabotage all efforts to revive the peace process. Clearly, Israel seeks to perpetuate and entrench its illegitimate 43-year military occupation and control of the Palestinian Territory, rather than complying with international law and cooperating with the international efforts to bring a definite end to this occupation, which is universally agreed to be in the interest of regional and global peace. In this regard, it is imperative to reiterate what we have stated on numerous occasions: Israel's illegal settlement activities and the peace process are not compatible and cannot coexist. One negates the other, and it is abundantly clear which one the Government of Israel has chosen.

Before concluding, we must also draw attention to the fact that this settlement construction announcement comes at a time when Israeli peace activists have also exposed the complicity of the Israeli Government with extremist settler organizations, such as "Aatirt Cohanim" and "Elad", in seizing Palestinian property in Occupied East Jerusalem by means of coercion and forgery. The peace activists have detailed the means by which the Israeli authorities have been facilitating the unlawful actions and attempts by settlement groups that work in secret to flood the Old City of Jerusalem with illegal settlers through such illicit means.

Furthermore, Israeli media sources have revealed a plan to expand the illegal settlement of "Ariel" on Palestinian lands confiscated from the Nablus Governorate in the northern Occupied West Bank. If implemented, this planned settlement expansion would completely encircle the adjacent city of Salfit. Additional reports also reveal that 66 Jewish settler families have recently settled in the "Ras al-Amud" neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem in the context of a wider settler plan in the neighbourhood that has been ongoing for nearly three years during which the

construction of dozens of settlement units were built in the neighbourhood in the form of "forts".

We welcome the many statements from around the world that rightly condemn such provocative declarations and all such illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power. At the same time, however, we believe that, at this extremely fragile and tense juncture, serious action is necessary to confront these grave developments. What is needed now is a serious stance in the face of such provocations, including practical measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with its international legal obligations and the international consensus in this regard. In particular, we call upon the Security Council of the United Nations to uphold its Charter responsibilities and to immediately address this ongoing breach of international law, which undeniably constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Moreover, we believe that the actions of the international community must correspond in their seriousness to the gravity of this situation as well as to the declared position in support of the achievement within one year of an independent, viable, sovereign State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with Israel on the basis of the pre-1967 borders in accordance with the two-State solution based on the agreed terms of reference. This can only be achieved by ensuring that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately, all illegal and provocative actions that perpetuate the occupation or otherwise face serious and real consequences. The international message should be unmistakable: the only way forward and the only way to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace is through steps that usher a complete end of Israel's 43 year occupation of Palestine and empower the Palestinian people to live as a free and dignified people in their independent homeland.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 377 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 October 2010 (A/ES-10/504-S/2010/535) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations